

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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**We help orphans and elderly Christians (many in their 80s, even 90s) who had been imprisoned for their faith in present or former communist countries.**

**At this critical moment, we also help many Christian refugees from Ukraine!**



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

February 2024

**Announcement:**

Free copies of the paperback books written by Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand:

**“Reaching Towards the Heights”;**

**“Tortured For Christ”;**

**“Was Karl Marx a Satanist?”;**

and **“The Pastor’s Wife”** by Sabina

Wurmbbrand, may be requested using the order form at the

<https://helpforrefugees.com> internet site.

(See third column!)

"I know in part" (I Corinthians 13:12)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand suffered 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbbrand was imprisoned for nearly three years, also for her Christian faith, in some of the same communist prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

**BECOME AWARE OF GOD’S HIDDEN BLESSINGS**

I received a letter of thankfulness from a Christian who had been released recently from a communist prison. He wrote:

"My outward appearance is not attractive. In the slave labor camp, I worked beneath the ground. I had an accident which made me a hunchback.

I went to visit a family. A boy stared at me and then asked, 'Uncle, what do you have on your back?' I was sure that some mockery would follow, but still I answered, 'A hunchback.' 'No,' said the child, 'God is love and gives to nobody deformities. You do not have a hunchback but a box below your shoulders. In this box, angelic wings are hidden. One day the box will open and you will fly to heaven with these wings.' I began to cry for joy. Even now, I write and cry."

Every man has some kind of "hunchback," some physical, mental or spiritual handicap, something of which he is ashamed or which makes him look odd. Things appear this way if we look at them from the perspective of our limited earthly life.

Here we know in part. And because of this, our lives and sufferings seem meaningless. The Swiss psychologist Jung remarked, "The central neurosis of this age is the emptiness and senselessness of men's lives."

He who does not know everything may miss an important factor which could change his whole outlook. If we don't know everything, we can be sure of nothing. This insecurity gives us the impression of meaninglessness.

But the apostles knew more than everything; they knew The Knower of everything. Therefore they were men with assurance. They said to Jesus, "Now we are sure that Thou knowest all things" (John 16:30). They knew their lives and deeds were predestined by this One who knows everything and therefore cannot err.

They did not have to worry if their actions were considered right by men. What is right is being right from a human point of view. With what measure has the righteousness of those who criticize us been measured? And who declared it right? Only Christ and what He ordains is right. He is right in all He does simply because it is He who does them, not because any criterion of right or wrong from outside can be applied to Him.

If God decided that I should have a hunchback, a sickness, poverty, a prison term, a bereavement, or whatever other sorrow, I will not accept human standards which categorize such things as being catastrophes. I will apply to them the standard of this Spirit-filled child and will see in my sorrows boxes which hide angel wings with which I am meant to fly to heaven.

Read in the Bible the history of the children of Israel. The expression "children of Israel" occurs five times within one single Bible verse (Numbers 8:19) to indicate the love of God towards the bearers of this name. Christians are God's children. We should work everywhere and by all means at our command to prevent the blood of Christians from being spilled in countries under communist dictatorship.

Tertullian, was a very learned pagan, born around 160AD in Carthage, the most developed city of the Roman empire after Rome. He became a Christian impressed by the courage and determination of [martyrs](#) and an uncompromising belief in one God. As a great teacher of the church, he wrote to his persecutors in the second century: "The oftener we are mowed down by you, the more in number we grow. The blood of Christians is the seed."



The Communist Jilava Prison. Entrance to the underground cells.



Prison cell with bunk-beds with no mattress, prisoners were obliged to sleep on. Stove for show only, never heated in cold winters.



Mug-shot of Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand when held in the Jilava prison, in communist Romania.

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father are this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (Apostle James Epistle 1:27)

## Heroes of the Faith and their Families, Helped with your Gifts

Some pictures of elderly Christians Imprisoned under Communism for the Faith.

Read their full testimonies in our past newsletters at <http://helpforrefugees.com> (third column!)



### BREGARU Florica of the Army of the Lord

Her husband, Gheorghe Bregaru suffered 5 years in Romanian Communist prisons for secret religious activity. Unafraid, she took care alone of four children and continued her husband’s underground church activities.

Read her message in our online 6/2015 Newsletter.



### CALOTA Monica

Was the youngest of the 9 children of brother Opris, imprisoned for five years as a leader in secret Christian activity in former communist Romania. She wrote: “Before my father died I asked him, ‘are you scared of death?’ He answered, ‘my wish is to meet the Lord.’”

Read her testimony in our online 7/2015 Newsletter.



### IFTIMOAIE Anica

Was the oldest of the seven children of Mihai Neculai, a known leader of the Army of the Lord, who underwent much torture for the faith during 5 years in the prisons of former communist Romania. Due to her mother being incapacitated, she had to care for and raise all her siblings.

Read her testimony in our online 7/2015 Newsletter.



### Pop Cristian

is the son of the Christian leader Pop Alexandru who was sentenced to 13 years of hard labor and confiscation of all goods in former communist Romania, for “carrying a fervent (religious) witnessing, while travelling in the whole country.”

Read his sentencing document in our online 7/2015 Newsletter.

### Translation of letter: My name is Elena D. (last name covered, N. Ed.)

I am 19 and lived in the Agape (orphanage) for the last 11 years. I arrived in the Agape House because of problems in my family. My parents used to drink alcohol resulting in violence (against the children) and quarrels. The Child Protection Agency was made aware of the existing (physical) danger for myself and my siblings and in this way we ended up at the Agape Orphanage. Agape ended up being my family. Here I learned to love, to forgive and to share. At Agape, my teachers being my (true) parents, did their best so that we do not lack anything and they shown us a love which we never felt before. Also at Agape I met Alice, who turned out to be since 11 years my best friend. She is the person who brought me close to God and listens to me if I have a problem. Due to her, my life at Agape is even more beautiful and therefore I can stress that being in Agape is the most beautiful present God gave me. In the coming years I would like to become an able social worker to help both poor children and helpless persons. I would like to offer same love like the one I received in this wonderful home named Agape. I do not think I could return in kind all that I received at Agape but I would like for the future to offer a helping hand so that the mission of Agape could continue and more children would benefit of the love I could not feel from my natural parents.

Letter in Romanian received from Elena



Numele meu este [redacted] Elena, am 19 ani și locuiesc în Casa Agape de aproape 11 ani. Am ajuns în Casa Agape din cauza unor probleme familiale. Părinții obișnuiau să consume alcool ceea ce ducea, de cele mai multe ori, la violențe și certuri. Protecția copilului a fost sesizată în legătură cu pericolul în care ne aflam atât eu cât și frații mei și am ajuns în felul acesta la Agape. Agape este familia mea. Aici am învățat să iubesc, să iert și să dăruiesc. La Agape, cei care ne auțură să simțim că suntem în siguranță și că nu ne lipsește nimic.

**The AGAPE ORPHANAGE in Pascani, Romania was started in 1993  
by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina.**

**Help For Refugees has been able to send yearly financial support.**

**TESTIMONY OF CARMEN GAVRIL, DIRECTOR OF THE AGAPE ORPHANAGE  
BRIEF STORY OF ANUTZA**

Anutza is the youngest child of family D. (name withheld for identity protection reasons!) Three of the children of this family came in 2010 to Agape. At that time there were six siblings.

They all lived in abject poverty. The parents, both alcoholics, did not take care of the children, did not work and all lived in miserable conditions. Their mud house had collapsed and a Christian organization had built them another house with two rooms, but this too was now under any human living standards.

They didn't have a toilet, not even in the yard. They all lived in one room. The other room was full of all kinds of discarded things. The children were forced to beg and ate only what they got or what the neighbors gave them. Many times the mother left the home, the children staying only with the father, who was also away from home most of the time. After a while the mother would return with another child, almost all the children having another father.

Because they couldn't take it anymore, the older children complained to the school and the town cityhall, which is why the social workers took them all away and placed them into different centers or families. That's how Vasile, Elena and Maria arrived at Agape.

This is where the lives of these children changed. Although they came from a terrible background, the three were and are wonderful children, good listeners, good-hearted and cheerful. Meanwhile, their mother gave birth to 4 more children, who ended up living in the same miserable conditions as the first ones. In the last period, the eldest girl of the four, Nicoleta, who was 5-6 years old, had ended up taking care of her younger siblings, two 2-year-old twins and a baby, Anutza. The mother had disappeared, and the father, who was not even their father, was not taking care of the children.

The three who were with us, visited their younger brothers from time to time. At their request and after we also saw the situation, we took the four little ones into Agape. Elena proved to behave like a real mother with the little one, Anutza. She took her to her room and took care of her day and night. Although she had school and things to learn, she sacrificed a lot of her time. Anutza had a very restless sleep and woke up often. Although she was offered to let the little one sleep with someone else, because she would soon take the Bacalaureate (end of high school) exam and she had to prepare, she did not accept. Her sacrifice was and is admirable. Now Elena is a social assistance student, and Anutza will turn 6 in January.

All four have grown up beautifully and Agape is their Home. When Anutza came to us, she did not have a birth certificate. For almost five years we struggled to get her birth certificate but we didn't succeed. Anutza didn't even have a family doctor and we always feared for her life. However, among the young people raised at Agape and among our children, we had doctors who took care of her. This year in the summer, my husband Dorin managed to convince the people from the social welfare office to register a birth certificate.

**Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated.**

**Over 8 million refugees have escaped so far from Ukraine into different European countries.**



**Testimonies of Christian refugee Families from War-Torn Ukraine, Helped with your Gifts!**



**Sister Marina Pikulitskaya wrote:**

Good afternoon, my name is Marina and I am a mother of three children. As soon as the war in Ukraine started on February 24, we were waiting (naively) for news that it would end and there would be peace, but the (Russian) enemy's troops approached our region, and we realized that we had to flee. We fled accompanied by my sister and her son.

My husband Yevgenyi remained in the Ukraine and with the help of our local pastor they would facilitate people to reach the western border. Driving across Ukraine was scary, because you could hear sirens and at almost every exit from a city or village, our soldiers stood to guard against enemy snipers.

We realized how at any moment you could be shot dead.

When my children and I were in line at the border, my son had a seizure and began to suffocate. we were standing in the field with the car and didn't know what to do, but God showed his mercy and sent us a man who helped us.

We stood in line for 4 days to be able to cross the border. After crossing the border, we felt protection and peace. Three months later, my husband could join us here in Spain and now we are together. It works, but we don't have enough money. We pay extra for the food for (five) children and for a larger apartment (to accommodate eight persons coming to more than half of my husband's salary), and that is why it is not enough. In the picture is our own family. My nephew also came to us since he also ran away from the war. His father, my brother is in the army defending the country (from the Russian invasion.)

## Ukrainian Christian Refugees Helped with your Gifts

April 16, 2022

Dear contributors:

My gratitude to all who donated generously toward helping so many refugees from Ukraine, a true flood of displaced individuals. More than 4 million have escaped the current war and another 3 million are expected to come out. If one reads the daily news, one will be convinced easily these are not exaggerated figures. These are persons who flee from extensive bombing and continuing total destructions of whole towns.

It happens that my birth country, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova (also a Romanian language country) have together the longest common border with Ukraine. At the same time, Romania is one of the poorest countries in the European Union and Moldova is economically worse. Between Romania and Moldova so far, nearly 1 million Ukrainians have sought asylum already. **Refugees come at times at the rate of 10,000 every 24 hours.** Most of these refugees are women with 3 to 8 children. Fortunately, many other countries in Europe and North America are accepting to resettle these refugees if they can arrive there. Many churches outside Romania, have sent transportation means, like buses and even chartered flights. These refugees speak Ukrainian and Russian. Here and there, the communality of the Romanian language is of help, since some border localities like the university town of Czernowitz (name in German, Cernauti in Romanian) where my mother was born, used to be part of Romania before WWII. Some of the younger generation might have a little knowledge of English.

Through many reliable contacts of many years in Romania, we concentrated on helping with local Romanian currency of US \$200 to \$2,000 per family of **Christian believers**-refugees. Many came out with hardly more than the shirt on their back. There were miles-long lines at the border. Through the local Christians who deserve all praise, we provide pocket money given in hand for food and believers' lodging for a few days, until there is a partial resolution as to near-future plans of settling some place somehow or moving-on further to other countries. \$2,000 seems to be a large sum for an elderly couple who could escape but most couples come out with larger groups of 10 to 15 children and grandchildren. Just as one example, we paid for a Victoria village home, \$6,000 for a one-month lodging and food for 3 adults and 12 children. Most of these refugees entertain the illusion of taking refuge out of their native country and their lodging and work, for a short time but the way the news comes out on this prolonged war, I doubt this will be the case. I believe these refugees will remain refugees for many years to come. We publish in these newsletters a few testimonies and some receipts of scores more, documenting what I wrote above. Again, thanks and God Bless, **Michael Wurmbrand**

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Куркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казахстан
413	Романюк	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тиссен	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1959	Украина
416	Бычков	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лященко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ткаченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казахстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Отмахов	Вениамин	Александрович (Валерианов	1960	Узбекистан
426	Савченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Фадеева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Алания
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Алания
429	Богодимов	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония

Above, a **sample only** of a long list, our mission was able to compile beside other lists, of over 480 elderly Baptist Christians most of them still alive, who suffered for the Christian faith in the former Soviet Union. The prison sentences amounted from 2 years, to as many as 18 years of communist prison. If considered together, their years of prison-sentences shown in our **abbreviated** table, would most likely add up to over 2,000 years of prison. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> column together, show year of birth and the most recent country they live in (like Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, etc.) We try obtaining exact addresses, so we may be able to send encouraging help to those still alive. We were able to send repeated help to about 120 such elderly Russian-speaking Christians and over 110 speaking other languages. Many of their testimonies you can read in the monthly newsletter. Testimonies available also on the internet. **Look up third column at: website: <https://helpforrefugees.com>**

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